

spreading branches of the Live Oak, give it a novel and grotesque appearance to the Northern traveler, and all admire it, and cull tufts as mementos of the sunny South. It is much used in decorating halls, dining and sitting rooms. It contributes, also, as an article of commerce in the manufactured state. It is shipped in bales to Northern upholsterers, who use it as a good substitute for hair. In preparing for market, the dead moss-only is used. The colored people convey it in bundles their usual way, or on carts, to the gin, where they dispose of it for a small consideration. Thus received, it is placed in water until it is thoroughly saturated, after which it is thrown on large stacks, and is allowed to pass through a process of sweating. It is then separated, dried and ginned. In the process of ginning, the strong woody fibre in the stem becomes denuded of its leafy and bark-like covering. It is this fibre which constitutes the article of commerce. It is a glossy brown color, and quite strong. Some, by special desire of purchasers, is dyed black, so as to more nearly resemble hair. A superior article is that which has further been subjected to a process of picking, by which all foreign matter is eliminated.—DR. A. P. GARBER, *Columbia, Penn.*

**SOME FORKING SPIKES.**—I was much interested in the remarks on *Plantago* in your September issue. The *Plantago major*, with branching leafy spikes, has occurred here for several years. It first attracted my attention in 1862; then for several seasons I did not collect a specimen. For the past year or two it has been increasingly abundant, sometimes with every part of the plant covered with a dense pubescence, again, perfectly smooth and shining.

A few years ago I collected along the Schuylkill River, near Philadelphia, the *Botrychium Virginicum*, Swartz, with the fertile frond branched somewhat in a similar manner, two, three, or even four branches. On examining the plants to ascertain, if possible, the cause, I found in every case that there had been an injury in the early stage of the plant, by which the fertile segment had been broken off, and from that point the branches started. Of course all of them were without the direct terminal spikes, which is not the case in the *Plantago*. Several other species of ferns are found here with occasionally forking or branching fronds.

A short time ago I collected the *Saturia glauca*, Beauv., with forked spike, but in no other way differing from the ordinary form of the species.—ISAAC C. MARTINDALE, *Camden, N. J.*

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE DAVENPORT ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, VOL. I, 1867-1876.**—This is a thick, well-printed pamphlet of 284 pages, containing 36 plates, principally lithographic, and ten pages devoted to their explanation. In the preface is given the origin and history of the Academy, and the circumstances under which this first volume of proceedings is issued. Organized on the 15th of December, 1867, it passed through several stages of advance and decline, but within the past two or three years it has begun to enjoy a very prosperous existence. In 1875 it was thought that sufficient material had been collected to warrant the Academy in commencing the publication of its proceedings, and the present volume is the result. It is the intention, if possible to issue an additional number of proceedings as often as once a year. The price of the volume is \$2.50.

**CALANDRINIA LEANA**, Porter.—Dr. Gray reports this species, described in the October BULLETIN, as discovered also, later in the month of August, in Siskiyou county, California, by the Rev. E. L. Greene.

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